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These Are Our Children

Troublesome Times Find Them Restless, But As Morally Sound As Any of Their Predecessors

There is perhaps no greater gap of misunderstanding between man and man than between adults and children. When men and women seek to judge children on their own terms, a strange kind of passion to gossip or belittle is often indulged. One generation can see more quickly the degradation of a younger generation than almost any other natural phenomena. We are slow to judge the children we do not understand. They make a new kind of unintelligible talk of the jargon of their day. Their very dress is beyond adult comprehension and their behavior, considered as a black sign of our times, is so strange.

All over America, especially in working cities where all problems in human relations have become critical, juvenile delinquency has grown by leaps and bounds. It has become almost fashionable to deplore the actions of the youngsters, and build up a case against them all with the pointed examples offered by a few. And the case history the shouters can recite is impressive: Baltimore's juvenile delinquency is up 300 per cent; in New York and Philadelphia there is almost a revolution. The same spreads to other cities. It now grips Charlotte. Parents are deeply concerned for their children and for all other children. There is dismay in the community, and it grows into a stormy will, each repeated incident, real or fancied. There is the singular impression that the present generation of children is the saddest yet in the history of man.

To discover whether this large, loose accusation against our children is true is a task almost too great for any man or group of men. It has been sought in every conceivable place for evidence of the moral and spiritual state of Charlotte's teen-age children. There is a great wealth of opinion, and a great deal of evidence. There are numerous viewers with alarm to be heard. There are men and women who refuse to believe that children are any different today, basically, than they were a generation ago, or a century ago. The pace has changed, the conservatives say, but most of the children are as safe and sane as any children have ever been. But there is still the agonizing question in the minds of parents: What of our children?

There are times when their elders cannot help but doubt them, and when for the first time Charlotte's doors in the uptown area on Saturday nights, smoke-filled and beer-soaked, full of soldiers and too-young girls, reports from anxious merchants of increased delinquency in the stores, with school children suspected; scenes on crowded afternoon buses, full of noisy, riotous and disrespectful youngsters screaming, pushing, shoving and using always their strange jargon. Men and women must look and wonder. Is there, beneath the dark rouged lips and hardening makeup on the faces of 14 and 15-year-old girls the same tender young innocence of mother's day? Is there, beneath the Sloppy Joe soccerers, the streaming hair-dos and saddle shoes a respectful little girl who is still in spirit tied to a brown string? Is there behind the smoking, tough-talking, zoot suit-wearing youth of the same years the kid of 25 years ago who knew well the sting of a parental slipper?

For these, many are concerned. Police officers whose duty it is to pick up youngsters for juvenile court report a great increase in the incidence of crime and near-crime. The instances? There are great numbers of them: A gang of boys (15-16 years old) has been caught stealing eggs, butter and milk in Dilworth; last week three youngsters broke into the Dilworth School, stole \$150; the boss officer of a big department store reports 30 to 40 instances per month of children stealing, many of them from what are called "good families"; on Eighth Street a gang of boys finally put an old man out of business by stealing; two years ago a local high school football team, on a bus trip, stopped in Forest City and literally cleared out a drug store, stealing two of the boss, not prosecuted at the time, later went to prison on other charges; an annual football game is given to stealing from the store; one of the Kings of the night club scene is (one) the president of a school class.

Of a school class) were caught stealing in a local department store; 15- and 16-year-old girls are found to know more than their parents; high school girls who had become pregnant came to police attention last year; the Graham Street gang of 8, 9 and 10-year-olds, engaged in stealing, was broken up recently. The cases are without number. Among all the men and women whose opinions and advice were sought there was agreement on several salient points: 1. These problems of today are not new, but are old ones, exaggerated or slightly so. 2. The new restlessness among children is traceable directly to the parents and the home, where a kind of family disintegration has been going on for many years. 3. Strong drink does not enter the teen-age picture to a great extent. 4. The best method of control may be exerted by parents who, in cases where children have wandered, have not properly discharged their duties. 5. "High school children" as a group are probably unjustly maligned by loose talkers and gossipers. Despite all the talk of stealing and carousing, restlessness, recklessness and disrespect, it seems obvious to us that the children of Charlotte are, by and large, no better and no worse than the long lines of their predecessors. There is granted a certain restlessness in children, especially boys, from 13 to 17 years of age—they face the prospect of service in war. There is, too, an indefinite spirit of the times, a faster tempo America came to know in the early Twenties.

But there has always been a small percentage of youth, in any land, ever eager to kick over the traces. There has always been, the merchants admit, a certain amount of stealing; there is no way of telling how much more there is today. There is talk of the "Casino" in a rest room at Central High where boys gamble; there has always been such a place, they say, and they dare say, and always it will be. But all these things, and the very signs of authority-baiting disrespect read from their young faces, are but an ancient repetition of the trials of uncertain youth. There is, in this community, no more cause of alarm over the state of our youth than in 1925, or 1915, or 1900—or ever before, back through the dim years. Youth of today is simply youth in a new garb.

The World Shrinks

We Are So Like The English

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON
The main part of Winston Churchill's historic speech was devoted to internal post-war policy. Mr. Churchill offered no detailed program for British reconstruction but he summed up his main objective to be achieved and suggested principles and procedures for attaining these objectives.

Inasmuch as this part of the speech concerned only Britain, why did it awaken such enormous interest in the United States? One reason is the extent of the popular misconception of Britain. It has been depicted as a conservative and even reactionary country ruled by " Tories"—and few people could describe a British " Tory." The profound social changes that were developing in Britain before the war, and have been enormously accelerated since, have attracted relatively little attention here. That some of the most important parts in the British Cabinet are held by labor representatives is well known, but the consequences are not. In fact, the popular influence in " conservative" Britain, is, I think, stronger than in democratic America.

One reason is that the British labor movement is stronger, more integrated, and more universally accepted, a permanent and dynamic factor in British life than it is in America. It is also far more responsible. It is a movement with a political tradition, which is formulating a national program. In contrast, the American labor movement is primitive. Never has a national policy even been formulated by either of the great American labor organizations. The questions that concern them are exclusive rather than inclusive of the rest of the people, restricted to " collective bargaining" over matters of wages, hours and employer-employee relationships. With few exceptions, one being the textiles trades, they do not

Reprieve for the Golden Goose

By Dorman Smith



Our Neighbors

We Must Meet The World

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON
MUTUAL advantage, not sentiment, is the only basis on which we can hope to maintain satisfactory relations with other nations. That is something we have to learn because we are going to be mixed up with other nations for a long time.

American officials who have gone out to China overflying with warm sentimental ideas, often have come back home disillusioned and cynical, if not embittered. Traffic between America and China is that way—dazzle-eyed going out, and fishy-eyed coming back.

I have been told, by old China hands, that this is a common occurrence and that if you wait long enough the patient will usually swing back into a middle ground. Gradually a normal outlook will develop, and it will be realistic, recognizing the merits as well as the faults, and above all recognizing the national advantages to us as against the liabilities that we must carry in order to enjoy the advantages.

For instance, as to China, you figure that there was much waste, much "squeeze" on the Burma Road. It was not an efficient operation by our standards. Yet it helped keep China going, often has come back home disillusioned and cynical, if not embittered. Traffic between America and China is that way—dazzle-eyed going out, and fishy-eyed coming back.

There hasn't been nearly the same tendency to sentimentalize about Britain as about China. Apparently they have no tendency in Britain to sentimentalize about us. Which is the way it should be. There is no reason why every American should like every Englishman or vice versa, any more than that all Americans should like each other, or all Americans should like each other. An alliance doesn't necessarily make two peoples friends.

Kentucky Humor

Jest For A Laugh

The Louisville Courier-Journal
WHEN my kid sister was quite small she saw me pin a shamrock on my coat as I left for school, and said to me, "I hope you'll get a good one for your birthday." I said, she studied the matter for a moment before she let loose with her next question: "Are you invited?"
On my first day as a teacher, a second grade pupil arrived and found all the desks in the room occupied. "Sit here for the present," I said, indicating a front desk without a partner, when additional desks were set up, the youngster wouldn't move, and I asked him why. "I'm waiting for the present," he replied, "How'd you do?"
While visiting in Louisville, I took my son, Tony, 4, through a pet shop. As we passed one cage, a boy parrot said, in the usual deep, hoarse voice, "Hello!" Tony, having his first experience with a parrot, stopped in his tracks, amazed. Again the parrot barked, "Hello!" Backing away a little and holding tightly to my hand, Tony finally spoke. "I'm waiting for the present," he replied, "How'd you do?"
Judging from the conversation Mary, 19, brought up while visiting her aunt, she appeared to be a very young girl. Her aunt, who was a

Listen, Italy

Danes Are Free!

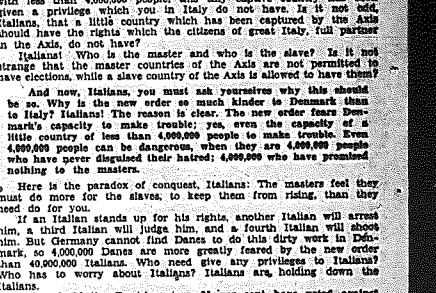
By Samuel Grafton

NOTES FOR A SPEECH TO THE ITALIANS: Italian! The Danes have just been allowed by Germany to vote. This is the first time since 1940 that a foreign people has been permitted to vote in a free election. The Danes are free! The Danes are free! The Danes are free!

Here is the paradox of conquest, Italians: The masters feel they must do more for the slaves, to keep them from rising, than they need to do for you. If an Italian stands up for his rights, another Italian will arrest him. A third Italian will judge him, and a fourth Italian will shoot him. But Germany cannot find Danes to do this dirty work in Denmark, so 4,000,000 Danes are more greatly feared by the new order than 4,000,000 Italians. Who need give any privileges to Italians? The conquerors, the victors, do not even have that. Your government is the only Vichy government that really works. It holds Italy for Hitler, as he wanted Vichy to hold France for him.

Quote, Unquote
I THINK we are doing pretty well with a bunch of boys who are pitching all right. We are all trying for it. The morale of our forces is high—in fact, so high it scares me. I firmly believe that not until there is imposed on every man and woman the equal obligation to render service in the war effort will this country make the all-out war effort which is necessary and of which we are capable. —Undersecretary of War Robert Patterson. I say it will take 15,000,000 Americans in uniform to do the job that needs to be done. For we have the only manpower left, Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker.

Side Glances



Remember when we could overeat and miss school once in a while? Even then we had the point system! —A student.